

AMD17-039

4/10/08

**Bell, Leanne S (DOT)**

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**From:** Scholl, James W (DOT)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2008 8:10 AM  
**To:** Bell, Leanne S (DOT)  
**Subject:** FW: Delivery Status Notification (Failure) for STIP COMMENTS HEALY LAKE  
**Attachments:** details00000.txt

Please log this in as a comment, Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Veasey, Teri A (DOT)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2008 7:34 AM  
**To:** Ottesen, Jeffery C (DOT)  
**Cc:** King, Ronald G (DOT); Scholl, James W (DOT)  
**Subject:** FW: Delivery Status Notification (Failure) for STIP COMMENTS HEALY LAKE

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Howard Mermelstein [mailto:hmermelstein@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 09, 2008 11:56 PM  
**To:** Bloom, David T (DOT); Sanches, Dave (DOT); Jim Glaze; Leo Von Scheben; Von Scheben, Leo (DOT)  
**Cc:** jpolston1@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** FW: Delivery Status Notification (Failure) for STIP COMMENTS HEALY LAKE

Dear Leo and Dave,

I tried to send in comments to the address provided but they keep bouncing back as undeliverable. I have sent them to your personal address due to this glitch. Please be sure they are included in the comment package.

Please call me if you have any questions Please use my cell number on bottom of message as I am traveling thru the 18th

Thank You

Howard Mermelstein-Director Healy Lake Department of Transportation (MENDAS CHA~AG TRIBE)

Box #7 Shakedown Street

Manley Hot Springs, Alaska 99756

Phone (907)672-3133 Fax (907)672-3205

Cell (907) 388-7389 ( only works when traveling, messages not checked at this # often)

From: postmaster@mail.hotmail.com

To: hmermelstein@hotmail.com

Date: Thu, 10 Apr 2008 00:48:25 -0700

Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

This is an automatically generated Delivery Status Notification.

Delivery to the following recipients failed.

dot\_stip@dot.state.ak.us

--Forwarded Message Attachment--

From: hmermelstein@hotmail.com

To: dot\_stip@dot.state.ak.us; jpolston1@hotmail.com

CC: dave.sanches@alaska.gov

Subject: FW: STIP Comment Healy Lake Access Road (Cummings Road Connector) Typos Corrected

Date: Wed, 9 Apr 2008 23:48:24 -0800

From: hmermelstein@hotmail.com

To: dave.sanches@alaska.gov; dave.bloom@alaska.gov; ftrichards@alaska.gov;

frank.richards@alaska.gov; steve.titus@alaska.gov; jeff\_ottesen@dot.state.ak.us;

jeff.ottesen@alaska.gov; jfehrenbacher@alaska.gov; jim.fehrenbacher@alaska.gov;

jon.dunham@alaska.gov; commissioner\_dotpf@dot.state.ak.us;

leo.vonscheben@alaska.gov; melissa.riordan@alaska.gov; rj.stumpf@alaska.gov;  
teri.veasey@alaska.gov; tim\_woster@dot.state.ak.us; tim.woster@alaska.gov  
CC: bob\_walsh@murkowski.senate.gov; robert.sparrow@dot.gov; ccmilles@alaska.gov;  
chris.maisch@alaska.gov; chris.milles@alaska.gov; elizabeth@sonosky.net;  
galen.balster@dot.gov; glenn5of9@yahoo.com; greg.kaplan@mail.house.gov;  
hmermelstein@hotmail.com; jacqueline\_johnson@ncai.org; jeremy.price@mail.house.gov;  
jerry.hood@mail.house.gov; jerry.isaac@tananachiefs.org; jglaze@sonosky.com;  
jpolston1@hotmail.com; jthomas@sonosky.com; kevin\_sweeney@murkowski.senate.gov;  
kyle.kitchel@fhwa.dot.gov; mjmhps@hotmail.com; pexendine@gci.net;  
peggy.alaska@yahoo.com; robert.sparrow@fhwa.dot.gov; russ\_kelly@gov.state.ak.us;  
russell.garcia@dot.gov  
Subject: STIP Comment Healy Lake Access Road (Cummings Road Connector)  
Date: Wed, 9 Apr 2008 23:28:03 -0800

Dave,

Please include this e mail with comments to the current draft STIP.

In regards to the Healy Lake Access Road or Cummings Road Connector we are very concerned that this project is not reflected for construction in 09. We request that the State honor the contractual agreement it has already entered into with the Tribe(through the BIA) for this project. The Tribe has already committed to over 2 million dollars and the state has already drawn down a quarter million. The project does not reflect any amounts for construction in 09 at all. The Tribe has also committed to maintaining the facility for its life and in doing so has committed an additional 2 million in maintenance costs over the next 20 years based on the per mile cost for maintenance provided by the Northern Region DOT&PF for gravel roads.

The State approached the Tribe in 2001 and asked us to change our project so we could partner with the state DOT on providing safe and reliable access to the Tribal members as well as the travelling public that depend on Cummings road as their only access route for goods and services as well as medical needs. The State has delayed and delayed this project for years, finally in 06 the MOA was signed and then the project once again took a back seat (after the State drew down funds close to 250,000.00).

While the project continually is delayed peoples safety and well being are put at risk. The teachers for the Gerstle River school can not always make it in for classes, medical treatment for emergency situations is severely delayed, and system users can not get to work in Delta and Fairbanks. In addition to this the value of the money continues to decline while costs of construction continue to rise.

The current project engineer has confirmed that this project will be ready for bid by the end of February 09 given no unforeseen complications with the environmental review. However if

the project is not reflected for construction in 09 there is nothing that can be done by the design team.

Last Year (August 08) the road experienced a 20 year flood event. The State unwilling to address the damages due to funding constraints, it was left to the Tribe. We acted quickly secured 350,000.00 in disaster relief funds and made the needed repairs to reopen the road. The State DNR worked with us to provide access to materials and DOT was able to provide some technical support from the regional maintenance engineer. This should not have happened at all if the project hadn't been delayed all these years

Again we ask that the State stay on task, honor the agreement that is in place and reflect this project for construction in 2009.

Thank You,

Howard Mermelstein

Howard Mermelstein-Director Healy Lake Department of Transportation (MENDAS CHA~AG TRIBE)  
Box #7 Shakedown Street  
Manley Hot Springs, Alaska 99756  
Phone (907) 672-3133 Fax (907) 672-3205  
Cell (907) 388-7389 ( only works when traveling, messages not checked at this # often)